

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended herein by incorporating the subject matter of claim 3 and claim 3 is canceled. Claim 4 is amended by changing its dependent and claims 8-9 are amended to correct a minor informality. Claim 19 is amended to depend from claim 1 and to incorporate the subject matter of claim 13. No new matter is presented. Accordingly, upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 4-22 will be all of the claims pending in the application. Of these claims, claims 11-18 and 22 are withdrawn from consideration.

I. Response to Restriction/Election

Applicants affirm the election to prosecute Group I, claims 1-10 and 19-21 without traverse.

II. Response to Claim Rejections over Halloran

Claims 1-2, 5, 9-10 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Halloran (US 3,922,410).

Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Halloran.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3, which is not included in either rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Therefore, the subject matter of amended claim 1 is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Halloran. Claims 2, 5-10 and 19-21 depend from amended claim 1, directly or indirectly, and are therefore distinguished over the art for at least the same reason as amended claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Halloran.

III. Response to Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-10 and 19-21 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-13 of copending U.S. App. No. 10/833,305 (US 2004/219336 A1).

A Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith, thereby obviating the obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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